

Conclusion

Before closing the roundtable, Sally Webber asked each participant to offer their opinion on the discussion. In the round, many of the participants expressed their appreciation at the opportunity to discuss the issues with everyone.

"Everyone here is doing international relations," said Philippe Cousineau, Deputy Director of Circumpolar Affairs (Foreign Affairs and International Trade).

Joan Eamer, President of the Yukon Science Institute, said that cooperation should include the need for more scientific exchanges and information sharing.

Virginia Labelle of the Yukon government's Women's Directorate, said she had connected with Harald Finkler of Indian and Northern Affairs's Circumpolar Liaison Directorate, about women's entrepreneurship in the north.

Norwegian Jan Henry Keskitalo said he looked forward to future cooperation on the University of the Arctic.

Canada has the experience to help the Russian North build its civil society capacity as well as encourage more direct relations with local Russian companies, said Greg Poelzer, University of Northern British Columbia. The focus on the North, he said, is of "greatest importance."

Janet Campbell, Circumpolar Affairs, recalled a lunch conversation she had with Audrey McLaughlin about the need for more regular, consistent consultations with non-government organizations and the Yukon community.

"What I find interesting is how Foreign Affairs is opening up its policy development process to various actors, not just experts and other governments," said Floyd McCormick, a Yukon College instructor.

The foreign policy is going to have an impact on the Gwich'in First Nation, which is the largest landowner in Yukon, said Joe Linklater. Consultations must be genuine and have real impact on policy and decision-making. "Decisions made by Ottawa and Whitehorse affect the Gwich'in First Nation."

Webber concluded the roundtable with remarks, summing up the discussion:

- the expression of Northern values in the Northern foreign policy is necessary,
- respect for Aboriginal Peoples and their governments,
- Canadians have a special mission to respect Aboriginal Peoples and concretely support their participation in Canadian and international affairs,
- the social impact of economic developments with international dimensions must